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Economic and Social Council

Provisional

13 February 2012

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Organizational session for 2012

Provisional summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 7 February 2012, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Koterec ..... (Slovakia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Statement by the President

1. **The President** said that the increasing complexity and interconnectedness of economies, technologies and citizens called for improved policy coherence and coordination. The recent economic and financial crisis had put the Economic and Social Council at the centre of the debate about reforming the global governance architecture. The emergence of new actors, the growing strength of emerging economies, and the international commitments that would come out of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the post-2015 development agenda, would require a reconfiguration of global governance institutions and policies.

2. In 2012, the Council would focus on promoting jobs and growth, as evidenced by the theme for the annual ministerial review of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2012: "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals". The Development Cooperation Forum would examine, among other things, the changing context of development cooperation and its impact on sustainable development.

3. During the operational activities segment, the Council would, instead of adopting resolutions, discuss the conclusions of the Secretary-General's analysis of preparations for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. Discussions under the humanitarian affairs segment would focus on improving coordination of United Nations humanitarian activities. The general segment would be devoted to consideration of the reports of the various functional commissions and subsidiary bodies, as well as stand-alone items such as the report of the Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and the report on South Sudan.

4. Lastly, the Council would hold a partnerships event on 27 February 2012, entitled "Breaking new ground: partnerships for more and better jobs for young people", with the full participation of the private sector; it would also continue its tradition of meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Election of the Bureau (*continued*)

5. **The President** said that he had been informed that, following consultations, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed Mr. de Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, to fill the remaining post of Vice-President of the Council for 2012.

6. *Mr. de Alba (Mexico) was elected Vice-President of the Council for 2012 by acclamation.*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2012/1; E/2012/2; and E/2012/L.1)

7. **The President** drew attention to the provisional agenda for the organizational session of the Council for 2012 (E/2012/2); the proposed basic programme of work for the Council for 2012 and 2013 (E/2012/1); and the draft proposals submitted by the President of the Council and members of the Bureau (E/2012/L.1).

8. The Bureau had reached agreement with regard to its division of responsibilities for the 2012 substantive session. He himself would conduct the high-level segment and the conclusion of the work of the 2012 substantive session; Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt), Vice-President, would conduct the coordination segment; Mr. Percaya (Indonesia), Vice President, would conduct the operational activities segment; Mr. de Laiglesia (Spain), Vice President, would conduct the humanitarian affairs segment; and Mr. de Alba (Mexico), Vice-President, would conduct the general segment.

Basic programme of work of the Council (E/2012/1)

9. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to corrections to the basic programme of work of the Council for 2012 contained in chapter I of document E/2012/1. On page 3 of that document, under agenda item 3 (a), entitled "Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council", the reference to the Report of the Secretary-General on results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be deleted.

10. The Council, in its resolution 2011/7, had requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social

Council, a comprehensive report on the analysis of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 and a report on the analysis of funding of operational activities for development. Accordingly, there would be no consolidated report for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review covering the area of simplification and harmonization and other areas related to operational activities.

The meeting was suspended at 10.35 a.m. and resumed at 10.50 a.m.

11. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals submitted by the President of the Council and members of the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (l) of Council decision 1988/77 (E/2012/L.1).

Draft decision I: Proposed date of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

12. *Draft decision I was adopted.*

Draft decision II: Proposed date of the meeting of the Economic and Social Council on international cooperation in tax matters

13. *Draft decision II was adopted.*

Draft decision III: Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council

14. *Draft decision III was adopted.*

Draft decision IV: Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 2013

15. *Draft decision IV was adopted.*

Draft decision V: Working arrangements for the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council

16. *Draft decision V was adopted.*

Draft decision VI: Theme for the thematic discussion of the 2012 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

17. *Draft decision VI was adopted.*

Draft decision VII: Operational activities segment of the 2012 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

18. *Draft decision VII was adopted.*

Draft decision VIII: Theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of the 2012 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

19. *Draft decision VIII was adopted.*

Draft decision IX: Economic and Social Council event to discuss the issue of the transition from relief to development.

20. *Draft decision IX was adopted.*

Draft decision X: Theme for the item on regional cooperation of the 2012 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

21. *Draft decision X was adopted.*

Draft decision XI: Venue and dates of the twenty-seventh session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

22. *Draft decision XI was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.